## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03641 251105Z

20

**ACTION SS-25** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 042489

R 241412Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3735

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

SECRET BRUSSELS 3641

**EXDIS** 

DEPT PASS TO USNMR SHAPE AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP, BE SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 91998

SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE TO OUR DETAILED PRESENTATION MADE PURSUANT TO REFTEL, BELGIAN INITIAL REACTION WAS STRONG OPPOSITION TO TAKING ANY STEPS TO IMPROVE SPAIN'S RELATION TO NATO WHILE FRANCO REMAINS IN POWER. BELGIANS FURTHER HOPE THIS ISSUE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ON AGENDA SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03641 251105Z

OF NATO SUMMIT MEETING. END SUMMARY.

- 1. WE MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION ON APRIL 24 TO FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF NATO AFFAIRS OF US GENERAL THINKING BASED ON PARA 3 AND TELS CITED IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL. WE STRESSED FRANKNESS OF US VIEWS AND ASKED, AND WERE ASSURED, THAT THESE VIEWS WOULD BE TREATED WITH APPROPRIATE DISCRETION.
- 2. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION WAS IMMEDIATE AND STRONGLY OPPOSED. THEIR POSITION IS SUMMARY WAS THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS BASED ON SHARED PHILOSOPHICAL OUTLOOKS AS SPELLED OUT IN THE OTTAWA DECLARATION, WHICH FRANCO SPAIN DOES NOT SHARE WITH THE OTHER ALLIES. THEY STRESSED THAT BELGIUM WAS NOT ANTI-SPANISH, BUT THAT BELGIUM WAS AND REMAINED STRONGLY ANTI-FRANCO. THIS POSITION BEGAN DURING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR (IN WHICH MANY BELGAINS PARTICIPATED), WAS REINFORCED BY FRANCO'S LINKS WITH NAZI GERMANY AND THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BELGIAN WWII REFUGEES TRANSITTING SPAIN, CONTINUED AFTER WWII WHEN FRANCO PROVIDED THE BELGIAN TRAITOR DEGRELLE WITH SAFEHAVEN, AND CONTINUE TO THE PRESENT WITH REPEATED SPAISH OFFICIAL OBJECTIONS TO BELGIANS STATE-OWNED RADIO PROGRAMS, BANNINGS OF BELGIAN FILMS AND EXPLUSIONS OF BELGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS.
- 3. BELGIANS SAID THAT THEY HAD NOTICED THAT SPANISH DIPLOMACY HAD RECENTLY, AND ESPECIALLY SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF CAETANO, BECOME MORE ACTIVE. THEY SAID THAT THE SPANISH FEEL THEIR PRESENT ISOLATION AND ARE SEEKING LINKS WHEREVER THEY CAN, INCLUDING WITH THE EC-9. THEY REPORTED IN ADDITION THAT NO MONTH GOES BY WITHOUT A SPANISH REQUEST TO HAVE A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL OFFICIAL RECEIVED IN BELGIUM. BELGIANS CHARACTERIZED THIS NEW ACTIVITY AS A "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" AND ATTRIBUTE IT TO THE APPROACHING END OF THE FRANCO REGIME.
- 4. IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF LINKING SPAIN TO THE WEST, THE BELGIANS GAVE THEIR OPINION THAT TIMING WAS CRITICAL. TO ESTABLISH SPAIN-NATO LINKS BEFORE THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 03641 251105Z

END OF THE FRANACO REGIME WOULD CAUSE A POPULAR REACTION IN SPAIN AGAINST NATO AFTER FRANCO PASSES FROM THE SCENE. THEY FURTHER SAID THAT A SIMILAR ANTI-NATO REACTION COULD BE EXPECTED AMONG NATO ALLIES (CITING THE NETHERLANDS, DENMARK AND NORWAY PARTICULARLY) SHOULD NATO-SPAIN LINKS BE ESTABLISHED WHILE FRANCO REMAINS IN POWER. THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME TO ESTABLISH SUCH LINKS WOULD BE PROPITIOUS AS SOON AS THERE WAS ANY

POST-FRANCO EVIDENCE THAT SPAIN WAS EVOLVING TOWARDS A MORE LIVERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT. TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD LINKING SPAIN TO NATO BEFORE THERE WAS SUCH EVIDENCE OF "LIBERALIZATION" WOULD ONLY SERVE TO REINFORCE FASCIST ELEMENTS WHO WOULD TEND TO HOLD ONTO POWER POINTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THEIR DIPLOMACY.

5. INITIAL BELGIAN REACTION TO OUR APPROACH WAS THAT ANY STEPS TAKEN TO LINK SPAIN WITH NATO COULD, IF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WENT ALONG, LEAD TO ITS DOWNFALL AND FURTHER WOULD UNDERMINE POPULAR SUPPORT IN BELGIUM FOR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. THEY SAID THEY WERE SURE THAT NOT ONLY THE SOCIALIST OPPOSITION WOULD USE THIS ISSUE IN ORDER TO ATTACK THE TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT IT COULD PROVIDE A PRETEXT FOR STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE US AND NATO AS WELL.

6. IN CONCLUSION, THE BELGIANS URGED THAT THIS MATTER NOT BE RAISED AT THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING AS IT WAS UNRESOLVABLE AND TWO EMOTION-LADEN TO TREAT AT SUCH A FORUM.
FIRESTONE

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED USNMR SHAPE NOR USCINCEUR.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: POLICIES, MEMBERSHIP, ALLIANCE, NEGOTIATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 24 APR 1975 Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE03641

Document Number: 1975BRUSSE03641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D750145-1000

From: BRUSSELS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750418/aaaaaqjg.tel Line Count: 139 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION SS

**Original Classification: SECRET** Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS Reference: 75 STATE 91998 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: MartinML

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16 APR 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SPAIN AND NATO TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP, BE, NATO To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006